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File  
11-18-89

7 June 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR:

25X1

FROM:

25X1

SUBJECT: Your Estimate draft

Just as I had expected, this is a very good first draft. I have made a number of marginal comments, most of which might not be too helpful unless we go over them together.

Just a few larger suggestions to consider:

-- I don't think we need to cover the issue of Gorbachev's underlying goals, etc at the beginning of the piece in this depth. I would refocus the beginning more on "where he is at this point in the effort."

-- Believe the the forces pushing this reform process forward don't stand out enough, compared to the obstacles. In particular, the new situation created by the involvement of the broader public in political life.

-- Believe you also need to present a more complex picture of attitudes in the leadership and elite--sources of support for G. as well as opposition.

-- Rather than focusing on just what happens if Gorbachev is replaced--or the issue of his survivability--believe it would help to address the issue of "how durable is this process?" Of course, whether Gorbachev goes or stays is part of this. How durable do we think the process is and for what reasons. We did a little on this in NIE 11-4 (eg, adding some historical perspective on this reform effort) when it became clear that this was the big issue with Gates, et al. By the way Kerr apparently likes that way of putting the question. We could talk about what this might mean in practical terms.

-- My guess is that some of these issues might be taken care of, and some potential skeptics out there taken care of, if a substantial chunk of the ending portion of the paper were devoted

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to alternative futures for the next four years. A thorough discussion of each future and the factors that would tend to favor that future. We could talk about this too.

Of course, Blackwell is the ultimate arbiter of what you need to do at this point. I'm just trying to be helpful. I appreciate the first-rate effort you put into this.



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